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10/21/1981 - Final Home XC Meet

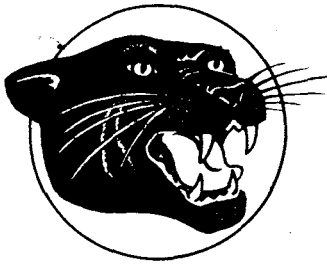
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Panther Sports News

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Oct. 21, 1981
LS-Hometowns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's final home cross country meet of the season is against up-and-coming Indiana State-Evansville.

The Panthers will meet the Eagles at 11 a.m. Saturday (Oct. 24) on a 10,000 meter course which is just a little over six miles. Normally the regular season meets are five miles with nationals at the 10,000 meter distance.

EIU Coach Tom Woodall expects a strong challenge Saturday from a young ISU-E squad. "Last year they had predominately freshmen and sophomores on their squad and they still finished 4th in the regional which we won," Woodall said. "They have one exceptional runner and some depth."

The Eagles have already won the Great Lakes Valley Conference championship with a team low 20 points.

"They've heard along the grapevine that Eastern has been having a down year and they've probably got it in their minds that this may be a good chance to knock us off," Woodall said. "They (ISU-E) could very well finish in the top five in Division II this year . . . they are a contender for the Regional championship, too."

Still, the Panther coach remains confident of his group's chances.

One reason could be the improved running of sophomore John Gassman (Olney). Finishing 34th overall and third for Eastern at last Saturday's Illinois Intercollegiate, Gassman drew high praise from his skipper.

"John was the most positive thing for us at the state meet," Woodall said. "He was just a few seconds off of our No. 2 man Tim Warneke . . . and he thought he had an extra mile to go when he finished. I'm glad to see him break through."

Another that Woodall is pleased to see emerge is sophomore Dave Houston (Granite City-South).

EIU CROSS COUNTRY
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"We've been counting on sophomores a lot this season and with the improved running of Houston, they are coming through for us pretty well," Woodall said.

"Terry Donahue (Downers Grove-Montini) and Mike Beresford (Danville) will be running in their last home meet here and I expect these two to have particularly fine performances," Woodall said.